

The Most Important Current Affairs February 2020

RBI's 6th Bi-monthly Monetary Policy 2019-20

- Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee released its **6th Bi-monthly Monetary Policy 2019-20**. The Reserve Bank of India's MPC has decided to keep the policy repo rate unchanged to **5.15%**. The MPC has also decided to maintain the accommodative stance of monetary policy to revive growth, while ensuring that inflation remains within the target.

The key decisions taken in the 6th Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy Committee meeting are:

- The repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) left unchanged to **5.15%**.
- The reverse repo rate under the LAF stands same i.e. **4.90%**.
- The marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate also remains same i.e. **5.40%**.
- RBI has increased the real GDP growth for fiscal year 2020-21 from **5% to 6%**.

India ranked 2nd in producer of Crude Steel

- As per **World Steel Association data**, **India** became the **second-largest steel producer** of **crude steel** after China 2019 by replacing Japan. India's crude steel production in 2019 was at 111.2 MT, an increase of 1.7 per cent from 109.3 MT in 2018. China remains number one with 996.3 million tonnes in 2019. The United States and Russia rank fourth and fifth respectively.

2020 EE British Academy Film Awards: Find complete list of winners here

- The **2020 EE British Academy Film Awards (BAFTA)** was distributed during the award ceremony held at the Royal Albert Hall in London. This was the 73rd edition of the awards which honoured the best national and foreign films of year 2019. The winners were awarded for various categories like Best Film, Outstanding British Film, Documentary, Animated Film, Director and many other.
- The Leading Actor award was won by Joaquin Phoenix for his film Joker. Sam Mendes' movie "1917" dominated the award winning list by winning the awards in categories of best film, outstanding British film, best director, cinematography, production design, sound and special visual effects.
- Here is the complete list of winners of 2020 EE British Academy Film Awards:**

| SL. No. | Category | Winner |
|---------|---|---|
| 1 | BEST FILM | 1917 |
| 2 | OUTSTANDING BRITISH FILM | 1917 |
| 3 | OUTSTANDING DEBUT BY A BRITISH WRITER, DIRECTOR OR PRODUCER | Mark Jenkin (Writer/Director), Kate Byers, Linn Waite (Producers) (Movie: Bait) |
| 4 | FILM NOT IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE | Parasite |
| 5 | DOCUMENTARY | For Sama |
| 6 | ANIMATED FILM | Klaus |
| 7 | DIRECTOR | Sam Mendes (1917) |
| 8 | ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY | Han Jin Won, Bong Joon Ho (Parasite) |
| 9 | ADAPTED SCREENPLAY | Jojo Rabbit |

- Here is the list of Top 5 Crude steel producers in the world in 2019:

| Rank | Country | Qty. (MT) |
|------|---------|-----------|
| 1. | China | 996.3 |
| 2. | India | 111.2 |
| 3. | Japan | 99.3 |
| 4. | USA | 87.9 |
| 5. | Russia | 71.6 |

Sri Lanka tops in Breast Feeding support Policies and Programs

- Sri Lanka** has **topped** a new survey conducted by the **World Breastfeeding Trends Initiative (WBTi)**. The survey was conducted on "**Breast Feeding support Policies and Programs**". Sri Lanka has received the green color code after scoring 91 points out of 100 and has become the **first country** to achieve the "**Green nation status**" in supporting breastfeeding women.
- The World Breastfeeding Trends Initiative (WBTi) stated that the high level commitment of the island nation towards health and nutrition of mothers and babies is the major reason for its presence on top of the chart.
- The World Breastfeeding Trends Initiative (WBTi) was developed by the experts at the Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India.

| | | |
|----|-------------------------|--|
| 10 | LEADING ACTRESS | Renee Zellweger (Judy) |
| 11 | LEADING ACTOR | Joaquin Phoenix (Joker) |
| 12 | SUPPORTING ACTRESS | Laura Dern (Marriage Story) |
| 13 | SUPPORTING ACTOR | Brad Pitt (Once Upon a Time... in Hollywood) |
| 14 | ORIGINAL SCORE | Joker |
| 15 | CASTING | Joker |
| 16 | CINEMATOGRAPHY | 1917 |
| 17 | EDITING | LE MANS '66 |
| 18 | PRODUCTION DESIGN | 1917 |
| 19 | COSTUME DESIGN | Jacqueline Durran (Little Women) |
| 20 | MAKE UP & HAIR | Vivian Baker, Kazu Hiro, Anne Morgan (Bombshell) |
| 21 | SOUND | 1917 |
| 22 | SPECIAL VISUAL EFFECTS | 1917 |
| 23 | BRITISH SHORT ANIMATION | Grandad Was A Romantic |
| 24 | BRITISH SHORT FILM | Learning To Skateboard In A Warzone (IF YOU'RE A GIRL) |
| 25 | EE RISING STAR AWARD | Micheal Ward |

Australia Open 2020: Complete List of Winners

- Australian Open** is the first of the four annual Grand Slam events among the world's major tennis championships. The grand slam Australian Open is held annually at Melbourne Park in Melbourne, Australia. The Australian Open was started in 1905 in only Men Singles category, by the the Lawn Tennis Association of Australasia (Now Australia). The first Australian Open having the category "Women's Singles" was held in 1922.
- In Australian Open 2020, **Novak Djokovic** defeated Dominic Thiem to win the **Men's Singles title** while **Sofia Kenin** defeated Garbiñe Muguruza to win the **Women's Singles title**.

Here is the complete list of winners:

| SL. No. | Category | Winner | Runner Up |
|---------|-----------------|--|---|
| 1 | Men's Singles | Novak Djokovic (Serbia) | Dominic Thiem (Austria) |
| 2 | Women's Singles | Sofia Kenin (USA) | Garbine Muguruza (Spain) |
| 3 | Mixed Doubles | Barbora Krejckikova (Czech Republic) & Nikola Mektic (Croatia) | Bethanie Mattek-Sands (USA) & Jamie Murray (United Kingdom) |
| 4 | Men's Doubles | Rajeev Ram (United States of America) & Joe Salisbury (United Kingdom) | Max Purcell (Australia) & Luke Saville (Australia) |
| 5 | Women's Doubles | Tímea Babos (Hungary) & Kristina Mladenovic (France) | Su-Wei Hsieh (Chinese Taipei) & Barbora Strycova (Czech Republic) |

Oscars Award 2020 winners: Full List of Winners

The **2020 Oscars Awards** has announced. it's time to honour the movies of last year (2019) and the people directors, actors, writers, editors, and many more, who created them. The 92nd chapter of Hollywood's most prestigious annual

awards shows, overseen by the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences.

Check the Category winners Here-

- Best Picture- **Parasite, Kwak Sin Ae and Bong Joon Ho, Producers**
- Actor in a Leading Role- **Joaquin Phoenix, Joker**
- Actress in a Leading Role- **Renee Zellweger, Judy**

- Best sound mixing- **1917**
 - Best sound editing- **Ford v Ferrari**
 - Best supporting actress- **Laura Dern for Marriage Story**
 - Documentary short feature- **Learning to Skateboard in a Warzone (If You're a Girl)**
 - Documentary feature- **American Factory**
 - Best costume design- **Jacqueline Durran, Little Women**
 - Best production design- **Once Upon a Time...in Hollywood**
 - Live-action short film- **The Neighbors' Window**
 - Best adapted screenplay- **Taika Waititi, Jojo Rabbit**
 - Best original screenplay- **Bong Joon-ho, Parasite**
 - Animated short film- **Hair Love**
- Best Writing (Original Screenplay)- **Parasite**
 - Best Music (Original Song)- **"(I'm Gonna) Love Me Again" from Rocketman**
 - Visual Effects- **1917**
 - Makeup and Hairstyling- **Bombshell**
- Animated feature film- **Toy Story 4**
 - Best supporting actor- **Brad Pitt, Once Upon a Time...in Hollywood**
 - Best Music (Original Score)- **Joker, Hildur Guonadottir**
 - Best Short Film (Animated)- **Hair Love**
 - Best Directing Film- **Parasite, Bong Joon Ho**
 - Best Cinematography- **1917, Roger Deakins**

13th edition of ESPNcricinfo Awards 2019 announced

ESPNcricinfo (sports news website) announced the 13th edition of the **Annual ESPNcricinfo Awards 2019**. The awards were presented under 12 categories & selected by a jury comprising former cricketers, ESPNcricinfo senior editors, writers & global correspondents.

Captain of the year award: Eoin Joseph Gerard Morgan was named as the 'captain of the year' for leading England to win the World Cup Title against New Zealand.

Here is the list of winners of ESPN cricinfo Awards 2019:

| Sl. No. | Category | Winner |
|---------|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1. | Captain of the year | Eoin Morgan (England) |
| 2. | Test batting performance of the year | Kusal Perera (Sri Lanka) |
| 3. | Test bowling performance of the year | Kemar Roach (West Indies) |
| 4. | ODI batting performance of the year | Ben Stokes (England) |
| 5. | ODI bowling performance of the year | Matt Henry (New Zealand) |
| 6. | T20I batting performance of the year | Gleen Maxwell (Australia) |
| 7. | T20I bowling performance of the year | Lasith Malinga (Sri Lanka) |
| 8. | Debutant of the year | Jofra Archer (England) |
| 9. | Women's batting performance of the year | Meg Lanning (Australia) |
| 10. | Women's bowling performance of the year | Ellyse Perry (Australia) |
| 11. | Associate batting performance of the year | George Munsey (Scotland) |
| 12. | Associate bowling performance of the year | Bilal Khan (Oman) |

India ranks 40th in Global Intellectual Property Index 2020

- **India** has been ranked **40th out of 53 countries** on a **global intellectual property index 2020**. India was placed at 36th position among 50 countries in 2019. India's score, however, increased from 36.04 per cent (16.22 out of 45) in 2019 to 38.46 per cent (19.23 out of 50) in 2020, a 2.42 per cent jump in an absolute score.
- The **US, UK, Sweden, France and Germany remained the top five economies** on the intellectual property index in 2019 retaining their spots from the last year. The index was released as part of the annual report prepared by the Global Innovation Policy Center (GIPC) of the US Chambers of Commerce.

Bangladesh wins ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup 2020

- **Bangladesh** has won the **ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup 2020** held in **South Africa**. Bangladesh Under-19 cricket team defeated **India** Under-19 team by 3 wickets to win the final of the ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup 2020 held at **JB Marks Oval, Potchefstroom, South Africa**. This was the 13th edition of the tournament in which 16 teams participated from all over the world.

- Bangladesh Under-19 cricket team has won the ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup for the first time in the tournament history.

UN report: India Ranks 77th on Sustainability Index

- **India** has been ranked at **77th position** in the **Sustainability Index 2020** and **131st** on the **Flourishing Index 2020**, according to a UN-backed report. The report commissioned by the World Health Organization (WHO), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and The Lancet medical journal.
- **Norway** leads the **table** for survival, health, education and nutrition rates – followed by South Korea and the Netherlands. The central African Republic, Chad and Somalia come at the bottom.
- The Sustainability Index 2020 takes into account per capita carbon emissions and the ability of children in a nation to live healthy lives. It ranks countries on excess carbon emissions compared with the 2030 target. The Flourishing Index 2020 measures the best chance at survival and well-being for children.

ESPN India Awards 2019 announced

The **ESPN India Awards 2019** was announced. The ESPN.in Awards recognises the best individual and team performances in Indian sport on a calendar-year basis. ESPN Multi-Sport Awards recognised achievements across 10 categories.

Below is the complete list of winners of ESPN India Awards 2019:

| SL. No. | Award | Name Winner |
|---------|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1 | Sportsperson of the Year (Female) | PV Sindhu (Badminton) |
| 2 | Sportsperson of the Year (Male) | Saurabh Chaudhary (Pistol shooter) |
| 3 | Emerging Sportsperson of the Year | Deepak Punia (Freestyle wrestler) |
| 4 | Coach of the Year | Pullela Gopichand (Badminton) |
| 5 | Team of the Year | Manu Bhaker-Saurabh Chaudhary (10m air pistol) |
| 6 | Lifetime Achievement award | Balbir Singh Sr (Hockey) |
| 7 | Comeback of the Year | Koneru Humpy (Chess player) |
| 8 | Differently-abled Athlete of the Year | Manasi Joshi (Badminton) |
| 9 | Moment of the Year | PV Sindhu's World Championships final win |
| 10 | The Courage award | Dutee Chand (Athlete) |

20th Laureus Awards 2020 announced in Berlin

- The **Laureus World Sports Awards** is an annual award ceremony honouring individuals and teams from the world of **sports** along with sporting achievements throughout the year. It was established in **1999** by Laureus Sport for Good Foundation founding patrons Daimler and Richemont.
- This is the **20th anniversary** of the prestigious Laureus Award which celebrates the best in the world of sport. The event was held in **Berlin, Germany**.

Below is the complete list of winners of Laureus World Sports Awards:

| SL. No. | Award | Name Winner |
|---------|--|--|
| 1 | Laureus World Sportsman of the Year: | Lewis Hamilton and Lionel Messi |
| 2 | Laureus World Sportswoman of the Year | Simone Biles |
| 3 | Laureus World Team of the Year | South Africa Men's Rugby Team |
| 4 | Laureus Best Sporting Moment | Carried on the shoulders of a nation' – Sachin Tendulkar |
| 5 | Laureus World Breakthrough of the Year | Egan Bernal |
| 6 | Laureus World Comeback of the Year | Sophia Flörsch |
| 7 | Laureus World Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability | Oksana Masters |
| 8 | Laureus World Action Sports person of the Year: | Chloe Kim |
| 9 | Laureus Lifetime Achievement Award: | Dirk Nowitzki |
| 10 | Laureus Academy Exceptional Achievement Award | Spanish Basketball Federation |
| 11 | Laureus Sport for Good Award | South Bronx United |

National Science Day celebrated on 28th February across India

- **National Science Day** is celebrated all over India on **28th February**. On this day, Sir **CV Raman** had announced the discovery of the Raman Effect for which he was awarded the **Nobel Prize in 1930**. Government of India designated 28 February as National Science Day (NSD) in 1986.
- The theme for this year's National Science Day is '**Women in Science**'. This theme has been chosen for the purpose of increasing public appreciation of the scientific issues

involved. The main event of the National Science Day will take place at the Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi. President Ram Nath will be present at the event.

- On this occasion, President Ram Nath Kovind presents awards for science communication as well as for women scientists. A total of 21 awards will be given which will include National Science and Technology and Communication Awards, Augmenting Writing Skills For Articulating Research awards and National Award For Young Woman Showing Excellence Through Application Of Technology For Societal Benefits.

India ranked 3rd in Hurun Global Rich List 2020

- Hurun Report has released the **Hurun Global Rich List 2020**. The Hurun Global Rich List 2020 is a ranking of the US-Dollar billionaires in the world. The **9th edition of the Hurun Global Rich list ranked 2,816 billionaires from 71 countries and from 2,182 companies**.

Some key facts of the list:

- Among the countries, the list has been topped by China with 799 Billionaires and USA stood on the 2nd position with 626 Billionaires.
- Among individuals, **Jeff Bezos** has topped the list of richest person in the world with the total wealth of US\$ 140 Bn.
- For the 5th time, Beijing (China) remained the capital of world's billionaire with 110 billionaires living at the place.
- Total four individuals recorded wealth of over US\$ 100 Bn.
- Mukesh Ambani stood 9th in the global rich list along with Larry Page and Steve Ballmer with a wealth of US\$ 67 Bn. Mukesh Ambani was also the only one from Asian region in the top-10 list.

Here is the list of top ten people in Hurun Global Rich List 2020:

| Rank | Name | Wealth (US\$bn) | Main Company | Country of Residence |
|------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Jeff Bezos | 140 | Amazon | USA |
| 2 | Bernard Arnault | 107 | LVMH | France |

| | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|-----------|--------------------|--------------|
| 3 | Bill Gates | 106 | Microsoft | USA |
| 4 | Warren Buffett | 102 | Berkshire Hathaway | USA |
| 5 | Mark Zuckerberg | 84 | Facebook | USA |
| 6 | Armanio Ortega | 81 | Zara | Spain |
| 7 | Carlo Slim Helu & family | 72 | America Movil | Mexico |
| 8 | Sergey Brin | 68 | Google | USA |
| 9 | Larry Page | 67 | Google | USA |
| 9 | Mukesh Ambani | 67 | Reliance | India |
| 9 | Steve Ballmer | 67 | Microsoft | USA |

Here is the list of top ten countries in Hurun Global Rich List 2020:

| Rank | Country | Number of Billionaires |
|----------|--------------|------------------------|
| 1 | China | 799 |
| 2 | USA | 626 |
| 3 | India | 137 |
| 4 | Germany | 122 |
| 5 | UK | 119 |
| 6 | Russia | 91 |
| 7 | Switzerland | 88 |
| 8 | Brazil | 69 |
| 9 | Thailand | 57 |
| 10 | France | 51 |

Elections for 55 Rajya Sabha seats to be conducted on March 26

- The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** announcing the schedule of polling for **55 Rajya Sabha** seats spread over **17 States** set to be vacated in April will be conducted on **March 26**. According to the schedule for the elections, the notification would be issued on **March 6**, the last date of filing of nominations would be March 13 and polling would be on March 26, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The votes would be counted at 5 p.m. on the same day.
- Prominent leaders, who are retiring in April, are NCP leader Sharad Pawar, Union Minister Ramdas Athawale, Congress veteran Motilal Vora, Digvijay Singh of Congress and former Union Minister Vijay Goel. Maximum seven seats are falling vacant in Maharashtra followed by six seats in Tamil Nadu.

POTUS in India: Events of 24th February 2020

- President of the United States (POTUS)** Donald Trump has arrived in India on **24th February 2020**. He was accompanied by the First Lady of the **United States**

Melania Trump. With this, Donald Trump has become the first serving US President to visit Gujarat.

- After his arrival, the US president was welcomed by the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. After welcome, the cavalcade of US president head towards Sabarmati Ashram. After reaching the Sabarmati Ashram, the US president and the first lady of US spun the Charkha and then head towards the Motera Stadium in Ahmedabad for "Namaste Trump" event.

“NAMASTE TRUMP” Event:

- Following the Sabarmati Ashram visit, both the leaders arrived at the world’s largest cricket stadium “**Sardar Patel Stadium**” which is also known as “**Motera Stadium**” to attend and address the “NAMASTE TRUMP” event. The “NAMASTE TRUMP” event featured cultural performances.

Taj Mahal Visit:

the rest of their trip.

- Following the “NAMASTE TRUMP” event, the US delegate landed at Kheria Airport, Agra, Uttar Pradesh to visit one of the 7 wonders of the world, i.e. the iconic “Taj Mahal” in Agra. At the airport, the US President and the first lady were received by Uttar Pradesh’s Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Governor Anandiben Patel. The US President and the first lady arrived at the iconic Taj Mahal and admired the beauty of the historical monument. After the Taj Mahal visit, the US delegates returned to Delhi for

Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2020 announced

- Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2020** announced in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**. Actor **Ravi Dubey** served as the host of the event. **Hrithik Roshan** bagged the Best Actor award for film “**Super 30**”.
- The Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival is a unique platform to honour and encourage the most creative filmmakers, and to infuse life into their career. DFIFF commemorate those deserving storyteller, creative writers, passionate filmmakers, and maverick artists who are part of great Indian cinema.

Complete List of Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2020 Winners:

| S. No. | Award | Award Winner |
|--------|--|--|
| 1 | Best Film | Super 30 |
| 2 | Best Actor | Hrithik Roshan (Super 30) |
| 3 | Most Promising Actor | Kiccha Sudeep |
| 4 | Best Actor in Television Series | Dheeraj Dhoopar |
| 5 | Best Actress in Television | Divyanka Tripathi |
| 6 | Most Favourite Television Actor | Harshad Chopda |
| 7 | Most Favourite Jodi in Television Series | Sriti Jha and Shabbir Ahluwalia (Kumkum Bhagya) |
| 8 | Best Television Series | Kumkum Bhagya |
| 9 | Best Playback Singer Male | Armaan Malik |
| 10 | Best Reality Show | Bigg Boss 13 |

US becomes India’s top trading partner, surpassing China

- The United States** has surpassed **China** to become **India’s top trading partner**. According to the Commerce Ministry data, the bilateral trade between the US and India stood at nearly **88 billion dollars in 2018-19 fiscal**. During the period, India’s trade with China was at **87.1 billion dollars**. During April-December 2019-20, the bilateral trade between the US and India stood at 68 billion dollars against a nearly 65 billion dollars trade with China in the same period.
- The countries will finalize a free trade agreement (FTA), then the bilateral trade would reach different levels. FTA with the US will be very beneficial for India as the US is the biggest market for domestic goods and services.
- India’s exports, as well as imports, are increasing with the US, while with China both are declining. America is one of the few countries with which India has a trade surplus. On

the other hand, India has a huge trade deficit with China. The data showed that China was India’s top trading partner since 2013-14 till 2017-18.

India & US sign defence deals worth \$3 billion

- India and the United States** finalized **defence deals worth 3 billion dollars**. India has agreed to purchase USD 3 billion worth advanced American military equipment including Apache and MH-60 Romeo helicopters, which are the finest in the world.
- The deals were signed after delegation-level talks between Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting US President Donald Trump. Under a USD 2.6 billion deal, India will buy 24 MH-60 Romeo helicopters from Lockheed Martin for the Indian Navy. Another contract to acquire six AH-64E Apache helicopters for USD 800 million from aerospace giant Boeing has also been sealed.

- Defence and security ties between India and the US have been on an upswing in the last six years. The bilateral defence trade touched USD 18 billion marks in 2019, reflecting growing defence cooperation between the two sides.

ISRO to launch Geo Imaging Satellite "GISAT-1"

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation** will launch the Geo Imaging Satellite "GISAT-1". GISAT-1 will be launched by **Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV-F10)** from the Second Launch Pad of **Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota**. The launch of GISAT-1 has been tentatively scheduled at 17:43 Hrs IST on March 05, 2020.

About GISAT-1:

- The Geo Imaging Satellite "GISAT-1" is an agile Earth observation satellite which has been planned to be placed in a Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit by GSLV-F10. The satellite weighing about 2275 kg will reach the final geostationary orbit with the help of onboard propulsion system installed on it. The GSLV flight will be carrying an Ogive shaped payload having a diameter of 4 metre.

Banking and Financial Current Affairs

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** will conduct the "**Financial Literacy Week 2020**" from February 10 to February 14, 2020. The **theme** will be "Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)".
- Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation** has increased the insurance coverage for depositors in all insured banks from Rs 1 lakh to **Rs 5 lakh** with effect from **February 4, 2020**.
- The Union Cabinet has empowered **Reserve Bank of India** to have better **control** over **urban co-operative banks** and **multi-state cooperative banks**. The bank is empowered after the amendments in the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.
- According to "**The Banker's Top 500 Banking Brands 2020**" report, **IndusInd Bank** has topped the list of "**Highest increase in brand value**" among global banks. The brand value of **IndusInd Bank** has increased by 122% over the past 12 months, making it the highest placed for growth in brand value, across the globe.
- India's reinsurance company, **General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re)** has received the license from **Central Bank of the Russian Federation (Bank of Russia)** to commence reinsurance business in Russia.
- The **Reserve bank of India** removes the restrictions placed on **Bandhan Bank**, allowing it to open new branches without prior permission. The RBI came up with some regulatory conditions & directed the bank to order about 25% of the total banking outlets to be opened in rural areas where banking facilities are not available.

- The **Airtel Payments Bank** has launched the **Aadhaar-enabled Payment System (AePS)**. The facility has been launched by the payment bank at over **2,50,000 banking points across India**.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** has directed all Scheduled Commercial Banks (excluding RRBs), all Small Finance Banks and all Local Area Banks to link all the new floating rate loans to medium enterprises with external benchmarks. The decision has been taken by the RBI to further strengthen the monetary policy transmission.
- Finance Secretary Rajiv Kumar** inaugurated "**Baroda Startup Banking**". It is an initiative aimed at making the Bank of Baroda (BoB) a preferred banking partner for the start-up community and establishing connect with at least 2,000 start-ups over the next two years. The initiative was launched simultaneously across 15 cities in the country.

Economy Current Affairs

- The Union Ministry of Finance has notified "**Printing of One Rupee Currency Notes Rules, 2020**" vide Gazette Notification G.S.R. 95(E) dated February 7, 2020.
- The **US removed India from its list of developing countries** that are exempt from investigations into whether they harm American industry with unfairly subsidised exports. The United States Trade Representative (USTR) eliminated a host of countries including Brazil, Indonesia, Hong Kong, South Africa and Argentina.
- The **Economist Intelligence Unit** has revised downwards its global growth forecast for 2020 to **2.2% from 2.3%**. This impact because of Novel coronavirus outbreak in China and also the virus starts spreading globally.
- According to the "**World Population Review**", **India** has emerged as the **5th-largest world economy** in 2019, overtaking the United Kingdom and France.
- Moody's** Investors Service has cut **India's 2020 Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** growth forecast to **5.4%** from 6.6% and the next financial year (**2020-21**) growth rate estimate to **5.8%** from 6.7%.
- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has raised **Rs 850 crore (USD 118 million)** from a new issue of offshore Indian rupee-linked 10-year bonds.

Business Current Affairs

- Reliance General Insurance Company Limited** has launched a comprehensive health insurance plan named "**Reliance Health Infinity**" which offers 90 days pre and 180 days post hospitalization cover.
- Paytm** has launched an Android POS device for small and medium businesses (**SMEs**) & **merchant partners** to enable the merchants to accept payments in various ways like debit and credit cards, Paytm Wallet, UPI-based apps and cash.

- The **National Company Law Appellate Tribunal** has approved the **Rs 19,700 crore** resolution plan of JSW Steel to take over the bankrupt Bhushan Power and Steel.
- An interactive AI Powered **ChatBot solution "LIDEA"** has been launched by Birla Estates for its customers. "LIDEA" will enable the users to access authentic information of the projects which can be used for the evaluation of the residential developments of Birla Estates.
- **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has allowed the use of regulatory sandbox by the market players on select customers. SEBI will also grant limited registration for such testing purposes. The decision is expected to facilitate the use of latest fintech innovations in capital markets.
- **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has launched an industry campaign named "**UPI Chalega**" to promote UPI as Easy, Safe, and Instant mode of payment. The "**UPI Chalega**" campaign is aimed to guide users towards the right usage of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and help create a habitual change, use of UPI in their daily life. NPCI has launched the campaign in association with the payment ecosystem players.
- **Bharti AXA General Insurance**, a private non-life insurer becomes the 1st company in India to use **Whatsapp chatbot**. Through this service, the company started delivering policies and renewal premium to its customers. It plans to sell the private car, two-wheeler and travel insurance through a Whatsapp chatbot.
- The **Uttarakhand Government** has approved the design of a **glass floor suspension bridge**, the first of its kind in the country to have a floor made of toughened transparent glass. This bridge will be built across the **River Ganga in Rishikesh**.
- The 1st-ever Hornbill festival of Tripura was celebrated in **Agartala**.
- The **Uttar Pradesh government** has given its approval to the Ground Water Act-2020. **The Ground Water Act-2020** has been approved with an objective of improving the falling groundwater level in the state.
- The state government of Haryana has launched an initiative called '**Reading Mission- Haryana**'. The initiative was launched to encourage reading habit among the young students of the state. The scheme is on the lines of the '**Reading Mission 2022**', launched by the central government.
- The **Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)** has approved the setting up of an air quality monitoring network of 90 stations in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- The state government of Haryana has launched an initiative called '**Reading Mission- Haryana**'.
- **Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh** launched '**Anganphou Hunba**' (Early Paddy Crop) programme at Arapti Mayai Leikai in Imphal East.
- Union Railway Minister **Piyush Goyal** inaugurated the first phase of "East-West Metro line" which is Kolkata's second metro line.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister **Edappadi Palaniswami** inaugurated the **Salem Cricket Foundation (SCF) cricket ground** in Valapadi, Salem in Tamil Nadu.
- **Haryana** government decided to open **Atal Kisan - Majdoor canteens** across the state to provide affordable and cheap meals to farmers and labourers at a concessional rate of 10 rupees per plate.
- "**Run for India Tea**" has been organized in collaboration by **Tripura Tea Development Corporation (TTDC)** and **Tea Board of India** in Tripura to further promote and popularise Tripura tea alongside India tea and to boost the tea industry in the state.

Schemes/Committees

- The Union Government has set up a **task force** which has a target to restrict the **Novel Coronavirus** in India. The task force consists of Health Minister Dr **Harsh Vardhan**, External Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar**, Minister of State for Home Affairs **G Kishan Reddy** and Civil Aviation Minister **Hardeep Singh Puri**.
- To ensure the home delivery of the government services, **Karnataka** Government has launched a scheme "**Janasevaka**".
- **Andhra Pradesh** Chief Minister **Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy** has launched a scheme named '**Jagananna Vasthi Deevana**'. This scheme is for students pursuing various post-Intermediate courses to meet hostel and mess expenses

States Current Affairs

- **Madhya Pradesh** government has entered into an agreement with the Survey of India, to employ **drones** for **mapping of villages**.
- Governor of Madhya Pradesh **Lalji Tandon** has inaugurated **Hunar Haat in Indore**.
- Under the Regional Connectivity **Scheme "Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN)"** of Government of India, Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has operationalized the first ever helicopter services in the **state of Uttarakhand**.

Appointments/Resignations (National & International)

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched 50 development projects worth over **1,200 crore rupees** at **Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh**.
- **Kerala** government has launched “**Yodhav**” (**Warrior**) mobile app (application) at Kochi, Kerala through which the public can inform police about drug abuse and its distribution.
- ‘**Pyaar ka Paudha**’ (a plant of love) campaign has been launched by the **Bihar government’s** Department of Environment and Forest in Patna to encourage the practice of planting trees in the state.
- **Uttarakhand** Chief Minister has **launched** the **web portal** of **Shri Badrinath** and **Shri Kedarnath** temple committee. The web portal has been developed by Uttarakhand state National Informatics Centre.
- The **Maharashtra** government has announced **5-day working week** for **state government employees**.
- **Andhra Pradesh** Chief Minister **Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy** has launched a scheme named ‘**Jagananna Vasthi Deevena**’. This scheme is for students pursuing various post-Intermediate courses to meet hostel and mess expenses.
- **Madhya Pradesh** has become the **1st state in the country** to introduce the unified registration card and the 2nd state to launch the **unified driving license after Uttar Pradesh**.
- **Losar festival** was celebrated at **Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh**. The festival is celebrated on the **1st day of the lunisolar Tibetan calendar also called Tibetan New Year**. Losar is a festival in Tibetan Buddhism.
- The department of Youth and cultural Affairs, Government of Gujarat has organised cultural festival called “**Vasantotsav**”. The cultural festival “Vasantotsav” was held with the theme of “**Ek Bhaart Shreshth Bharat**”.
- **Maharashtra government** has decided to undertake the genetic study for the conservation of the native species of domesticated animals. The genetic study aims to conserve the native species of domesticated animals in the Marathwada region of Maharashtra.
- Union Communications-Electronics IT Law and Justice Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad inaugurated **BSNL FTTH and WiFi services at Jolly Grant Airport in Dehradun**.
- **The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet** has approved a proposal to change the name of **Khawaja Moinuddin Chishti Urdu, Arabi-Farsi University** in Lucknow. The Cabinet has decided to rename the university as **Khawaja Moinuddin Chishti Languages University**.
- The **Kerala High Court** recently passed an order and **banned all types of political movements in the college and school premises**. Banning various forms agitations like gherao and sit-in in the campuses, the High Court also said no one can be persuaded to participate in such protests.
- **Jindal South West (JSW) Steel** has appointed Indian cricketer **Rishabh Pant** as its brand ambassador.
- **Ryan Roslansky** will replace the present **Chief Executive Officer of LinkedIn Corporation** Jeff Weiner in June 2020.
- **Pramod Agrawal** assumed charge as the new **chairman and managing director** of **Coal India Ltd**.
- India’s Para-athlete **Deepa Malik** has been elected as **president of Paralympic Committee of India**.
- **Gopal Baglay** has been appointed as the next **High Commissioner of India** to the Democratic Socialist Republic of **Sri Lanka**.
- The Board of Control for Cricket in India has announced the appointment of **Madan Lal, Rudra Pratap Singh** and **Sulakshana Naik** as member of the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC).
- **Ajay Bisaria** has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to **Canada**.
- The government of India has appointed M Ajit Kumar as chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs.
- Former Indian Cricket all-rounder **Robin Singh** was appointed as director of cricket of the United Arab Emirates.
- **Atul Kumar Gupta** will be the new President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants (ICAI) for the year 2020-21. Nihar Niranjana Jambusaria has been elected as the Vice President of the ICAI for 2020-21.
- Veteran space scientist **G Narayanan** has been named the chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation’s newly formed commercial entity **New Space India Ltd (NSIL)**.
- Senior IAS officer **Rajiv Bansal** was named the Chairman and Managing Director of national carrier **Air India**. He succeeds Ashwani Lohani.
- **Rajiv Ranjan** has been made **Secretary of Fisheries** in place of Rajni Sekhri Sibal, who is retiring this month.
- **Pawan Kumar Agarwal**, CEO of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, has been named **Secretary, Consumer Affairs**.
- Director-General of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) **Usha Sharma** has been moved to the **Department of Youth Affairs as Secretary**.
- **Mahant Nritya Gopal Das** has been elected as the **president** and **Champat Rai** as the **general secretary** of the **Ram Janmabhoomi Teertha Kshetra Trust**.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has appointed retired IAS officers **Amarjeet Sinha** and **Bhaskar Khulbe** as the **Advisers to Prime Minister** Narendra Modi.
- **Sanjay Kothari** has been selected as the new **Central Vigilance Commissioner** while **Bimal Julka** as the new **Chief Information Commissioner** in the Central Information Commission.

- **Australia** has appointed **Barry O'Farrell** as the next high commissioner to India. He will be succeeding Harinder Sidhu.
- **GoAir** has appointed **Vinay Dube** as its new chief executive officer (CEO).
- The appointment of **Sunil Gurbaxani** as **managing director and CEO of Dhanlaxmi Bank** has been approved by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- **Rajlaxmi Singh Deo** has been re-elected as the president of the **Rowing Federation of India (RFI)**.
- **Vijay Advani** has been appointed by the **US-India Business Council (USIBC)** as new chairman of its Global Board of Directors.
- **Hydropower giant National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC)** announced the appointment of **Abhay Kumar Singh** as the company's Chairman & Managing Director. He will replace Ratish Kumar.
- **Mastercard Chief Executive Officer Ajay Banga** will step down at the start of the next year and will be replaced by Chief Product Officer Michael Miebach.
- **TransUnion Cibil**, the largest credit information bureau appointed **Rajesh Kumar of HDFC Bank** as its new managing director and chief executive.
- **Jawed Ashraf** has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to France. He will succeed Vinay Mohan Kwatra.
- **Vinay Mohan Kwatra** will become the next Ambassador of India to Nepal, he will succeed Manjeev Singh Puri.
- **Abhishek Singh** has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the **Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela**.

Sports Current Affairs

- The **National Anti-Doping Agency** has suspended **weightlifter Ramshad AR** for a period of 2 years after being found guilty of violating the anti-doping rule.
- The National Anti-Doping Agency (**NADA**) has suspended Indian **wrestler Ravinder Kumar** for 4 years for failing a dope test.
- Weightlifter **Sambo Lapung** has won the gold medal with a new **national record of 188kg** in clean and jerk event in men's 89kg event of the **National Weightlifting Championships** held in **Kolkata**.
- **Rakhi Halder** has won the gold medal in the 64kg event of the **National Weightlifting Championships** held in **Kolkata**.
- **Hockey India** and **Sports Authority of India** has announced the plan of establishing the **High Performance Hockey Centres** in seven places across India. It aims to provide state-of-the-art facilities to junior and sub-Junior players and to groom the young talent in view of 2024 and 2028 Olympic Games.
- The **Ladakh Scouts Regimental Centre (LSRC)** Red won the **first Men's section Khelo India Ice Hockey tournament 2020**. They defeated **Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** team 3-2 in a nail-biting thriller final

match. 13 teams participated in the Khelo India Ice Hockey Championship.

- **Kaamya Karthikeyan** has become the youngest girl in the world to summit Mt Aconcagua. Mt Aconcagua is the highest peak in South America and outside of Asia. **Kaamya Karthikeyan** is a class VII student and summited Argentinian mountain which is 6962 meters tall.
- **Sweden's Pole Vault**, **Armand Duplantis** has break the **Pole Vault World Record** set by Renaud Lavillenie of France in 2014. **Armand Duplantis** break the world record with a jump of **20 feet 2.9 inches or 6.17 metres** at Copernicus Cup in **Torun, Poland**.
- The **International Hockey Federation** has named Indian striker **Lalremsiami** as **2019 FIH Women's Rising Star of Year**.
- **Aditya Mehta & Vidya Pillai** has won the **National Snooker Championship** held in **pune, Maharashtra**. Aditya Mehta defeated the world champion Pankaj Advani to win the men's title of the National Snooker Championship.
- **Australia** was awarded the **ICC (International Cricket Council) Women's Championship trophy 2020**. Australia's team was led by Meghann Moira Lanning, which also won this trophy last time (ie 1st edition 2014-16).
- The **International Cricket Council** has penalized **three Bangladesh** as well as **two Indian U-19 cricketers**. The list of punished players includes **Towhid Hridoy, Shamim Hossain and Rakibul Hasan of Bangladesh, and Akash Singh and Ravi Bishnoi of India**.
- Sports Minister **Kiren Rijiju** has announced **Khelo India winter games 2020** which will be held in the Union Territory of Ladakh later this month followed by a similar event in the **Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir in March**.
- **Ross Taylor of New Zealand** has become the first player in the cricketing world to play **100 matches** in all the **three formats** of the game i.e. **One Day International matches, T20 International matches and Test matches**.
- **BCCI** has announced the schedule for the **13th edition** of the **Indian Premier League 2020** which will commence on 29th March 2020 and conclude on 24th May 2020.
- The **Asian Football Confederation (AFC)** has announced that **India** will host **AFC Women's Asian Cup in 2022**.
- **India** will host the **FIFA Under-17 Women's Football World Cup 2020** comprising 5 cities namely Ahmedabad, Bhubaneswar, Guwahati, Kolkata and Navi Mumbai.
- The All India Football Federation (**AIFF**) has received the Asian Football Confederation's "**Grassroots Charter Bronze Level**" membership to promote its basic-level events as AFC recognised.

- The International Hockey Federation (FIH) announced that **India** will host **2021 Junior Men's Hockey World Cup**.
- Indian chess master **Koneru Humpy** has won the **Cairns Cup chess tournament** held at St.Louis, **US**.
- The Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee has revealed the official Games **motto**: "**United by Emotion**" for **Tokyo 2020 Olympics**.
- **Asian Wrestling Championship 2020** begins in **New Delhi**.
- The **National Anti Doping Agency (NADA)** has imposed a ban of 4 years on **Haryana's javelin thrower Amit Dahiya** for avoiding sample collection and for his attempt of trying to cheat officials during the 2nd National Javelin Throw Open Championship 2019 held at SAI Centre in Sonipat.
- Indian left-arm spinner **Pragyan Ojha** has announced his **retirement** from international and first-class cricket.
- **FC Goa** has become the first Indian club to qualify for the **Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Champions League group** stage.
- Five-time Grand Slam champion **Maria Sharapova** has announced her retirement from tennis.
- Indian Grandmaster **D Gukesh** defeated **Harutyun Bargseghyan** of France to win the **34th Cannes Open** in France. Siva Mahadevan of India secured the 10th place with six points.
- **Russia** will host the International Boxing **Association (AIBA) Team World Cup 2020**. The tournament will be coinciding with the 75th anniversary of the victory in World War II under the motto "Boxing for peace". This format is expected to make boxing more attractive to spectators and sponsors.
- 1st edition of the **Khelo India University Games** was launched at **the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium at Cuttack, Odisha**. The tournament will feature the participation of about 3,400 athletes from 159 universities across the country across 17 disciplines.
- **India** will host the **Commonwealth Shooting and Archery Championships** in January 2022. The Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) announced this decision after the Executive Board meeting in London.
- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** banned Oman player **Yousuf Abdulrahim Al Balushi** from all forms of cricket for 7 years.
- **World Cancer Day** was observed globally on **4th February** with the theme '**I Am and I Will**'.
- **World Pulses Day** proclaimed on **February 10** of each year since 2019.
- **The National Deworming Day** is being observed on **10 February** across the country.
- **International Day of Women and Girls in Science** is observed globally on **11 February**.
- The **World Unani Day** is celebrated globally on **11th February** every year.
- **National Productivity Day** is observed on **12 February** annually. The day is celebrated by the **National Productivity Council (NPC) to promote productivity culture in India**.
- The United Nations annually celebrates **World Radio Day on 13th of February**.
- India celebrates **Sarojini Naidu's** birthday as National Women's Day every year on **February 13**. This year Nation celebrates its 141st Birth Anniversary.
- **International Mother Language Day** was observed globally on **21 february** with the **theme "Languages without borders"**.
- The **World Day of Social Justice** is celebrated annually all over the world on **20 February**. The **theme** for 2020: "**Closing the Inequalities Gap to Achieve Social Justice**".
- The **Soil Health Card Day** is being observed on **19th February** every year.
- **World Pangolin Day** is celebrated annually on the 3rd Saturday of February to raise awareness about pangolin species and mobilizes various stakeholders to speed up conservation efforts.
- **Central Excise Day** is celebrated every year on **February 24** across India. The day is being celebrated to honour the service of **Central Board of Excise and Custom (CBEC)** to the country.
- **World NGO Day** is observed globally on **27 February**. The day aims to raise awareness about the **Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO)** sector.

Important Days

- **International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female** was observed globally on **6 February** with the theme "**Unleashing Youth Power**".
- **World Wetlands Day** is annually celebrated globally on **2nd of February** to raise the awareness about the crucial role played by wetlands for people and our planet. The **theme** of 2020 is "**Wetlands and Biodiversity**".

- Right to Protein, a national-level public health initiative has launched India's first **'Protein Day' on 27th February**. The aim of the day is to draw public attention, raise awareness, and educate India on the health benefits of protein. The theme of India Protein Day 2020 is set to act as a reminder for all Indians to daily ask themselves and others **"ProteinMeinKyaHai"**.

Summits And Conferences

- The 22nd edition of India International Seafood Show has begun in Kochi, Kerala with the theme "Blue Revolution-Beyond Production to Value Addition".
- **Lucknow** hosts the **5th India-Russia Military Industrial Conference** during which Indian & Russian companies signed MoU for the production defence equipment like parts of T-72, T-90, ASW Rocket launchers, radar systems and 3D modeling
- **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry** has organised the **"Central Asia Business Council"** in New Delhi.
- The **5th edition of Dhaka Art Summit** was inaugurated in **Dhaka, Bangladesh**. This year's programmes also include a special exhibition on the life of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to pay tribute to Bangabandhu on the occasion of his birth centenary. Dhaka Art Summit is the premier art festival of Bangladesh.
- The **33rd edition of the African Union (AU) summit** was held in **Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**. The 33rd edition of the African Union (AU) summit was held with the theme **"Silencing the Guns: Creating conducive conditions for Africa's development"**.
- **National Conference on e-Governance 2020** was held in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**. The Mumbai Declaration was adopted on the concluding day of the National Conference on e-Governance. The theme of the conference is: **India 2020: Digital Transformation. The National e-Governance Awards 2020 were also presented during the conference.**
- The **6th edition of the mega industrial exhibition 'Engiexpo 2020'** is being organised in Vadodara, Gujarat from February 15 to 17, 2020. The three-day mega exhibition will be organised by the Federation of Small Scale Industries (FSSI), to promote **'Made in India' products**.
- **ClimFishCon 2020**, an international conference on the impact of climate change on **'hydrological cycle, ecosystem, fisheries and food security'** will begin in **Kerala on 12 February**.
- **National Water Conference** was held in **Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh**. The Conference was inaugurated by Chief Minister Kamal Nath.
- **National Security Guard (NSG)** has organised the 20th International Seminar on **"Comprehends the Evolving Contours of Terrorism & IED Threat-Wayahead for the Security Community"** at **Manesar, Haryana**.

- **National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM)** will organize the **"National Workshop on Disaster Risk Financing, Insurance and Risk Transfer"** in partnership with Insurance Institute of India. The workshop will be held in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- The **Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)** has organised the two days **BIMSTEC's Conference on Combating Drug Trafficking** in New Delhi. The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) conference was inaugurated by the Union Minister for Home Affairs.
- The **National Organic Food Festival** is going to be held for **women entrepreneurs in New Delhi**. The festival will be held with the theme of **"Unleashing India's Organic Market Potential"**.
- The **13th Conference of Parties (COP)** of the Convention on the **Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)** will be held at **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**. The theme of the Conference is **"Migratory species connect the planet and we welcome them home"**.
- **Gujarat** hosts brainstorming session **"Chintan Shivir"** at Kevadia in Gujarat to focus on the future prospects of the coal sector.
- The 5th edition of **Difficult Dialogues** began in **Panji, Goa** with focus on the **"State of Law"**.
- The annual **All India Conference of the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT)** was held in **New Delhi** to discuss issues related to the work of CAT, including structural and institutional issues.
- The **3rd edition of the Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety** will be held in **Stockholm, Sweden** with a theme **"Achieving Global Goals 2030"**.
- The Government of **Telangana** hosting **Bio-Asia Summit 2020** in **Hyderabad** to explore the capabilities of Life Science Companies and their investments. The theme of the Summit: **Today for Tomorrow**.
- The **International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)** 43rd Governing Council meeting was held in **Rome, Italy** with the theme **"Investing in sustainable food systems to end hunger by 2030"**.
- **NITI Aayog** will organize **Sustainable Development Goals Conclave 2020: Partnerships, Cooperation and Development of North Eastern states in Guwahati, Assam**.
- **New Delhi** hosts the **International Judicial Conference** which was addressed by PM Modi. The conference was held with the theme of **"Gender Just World"**. The topic of the one-day conference is **"Judiciary and The Changing World"**.
- A 3-day international conference on **Ensemble Methods in Modelling and Data Assimilation (EMMDA)** was organized by **National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF)**, Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) in **Noida, Uttar Pradesh**.

- The **9th Defence and Security Expert Working Group (EWG)** meeting of **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** was held in **Islamabad, Pakistan**.
- **Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)** is working on a project of connecting about **3,000 kilometre-long power grid** from Myanmar-Thailand to India.
- The Government of India (GoI) announced the mega event, **RAISE 2020- 'Responsible AI for Social Empowerment 2020,'** to be held from April 11-12 in New Delhi.

National News

- The **Supreme Court** has directed the states to establish **Gram Nyayalayas** within four weeks under Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008, to provide speedy and inexpensive justice to people in rural areas at their doorsteps.
- **Jaipur "The Pink City"** has been certified by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) as the World Heritage site.
- **Atal Innovation Mission**, NITI Aayog has begun a series of innovation demo days which aims to unite the stakeholders of the food processing and agriculture sector in India. The first innovation demo day was held in **New Delhi**.
- The Union Cabinet has approved to bestow the status of **Institution of National Importance** to the **five** Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs).
- The Union Cabinet has given its in-principle approval to set up a new Major Port at Vadhavan near **Dahanu** in **Maharashtra** on the basis of land lord model.
- India's biggest rural technical festival titled '**Antahpragnya 2020**' was held in Basar, Nirmal District of **Telangana** with the theme "Spot and encourage rural tech innovators".
- **Ministry of Coal (MoC)** has launched a web portal for star rating of coal mines to promote the green, safe and sustainable mining practices with the help of technology.
- The **Government of India** has decided to consider all medical devices including implants and contraceptives as "**Drugs**". The notification regarding the re-categorization was issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. With the implementation, all the medical devices will come under the purview of the **Central Drugs and Standard Control Organization (CDSCO)**. The re-categorization will be implemented from 1st April 2020 in the phase manner.
- **BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise 2020** has been started in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**. The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) is organizing the BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise 2020 on behalf of the Government of India.
- **National Workshop on e-office** was inaugurated in New Delhi by Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr Jitendra Singh.

- **India** is switching to the world's cleanest petrol and diesel i.e. from Bharat stage-IV (BS-IV) to **Bharat stage-VI (BS-VI)** from **April 1, 2020**.
- The **Northeast Frontier Railway Construction Organisation** has built **India's tallest railway pier bridge** which is **100 metres tall** equivalent to a 33-storey building, across Makru river in the Tamenglong district of **Manipur**.
- The **4th Anniversary** of the launch of **Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM)** was being observed which was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 21st February 2016.
- Symposium on "**Emerging Opportunities for Indian Textiles and Crafts**" which was **chaired** by Union Minister of Textiles and Women and Child Development **Smriti Zubin Irani**, was held in **New Delhi**. The symposium was organized by Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts under the aegis of Ministry of Textiles, Government of India.
- Government of India will set up **Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)** by the first week of April 2020 under the **Consumer Protection Act 2019**.
- Union Cabinet has approved the **2nd Phase** of the **Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen** till 2024-25 to ensure that no one is left behind and everyone uses a toilet.
- Union Cabinet has approved the constitution of the **22nd Law Commission of India** which will give recommendations on different aspects of law which are entrusted to it.
- The Delhi International Airport Ltd has declared "**Indira Gandhi International Airport**" of Delhi as India's **first single-use plastic-free** airport.
- The Ministry of Textiles has organized "**Kala Kumbh**" exhibition in **New Delhi** to promote Geographical Indication (GI) craft and heritage of India.
- The Indian Railways' **South Central Railways (SCR)** zone has become the 1st zonal railway in the country to have functional "**energy neutral**" railway stations on the network.
- Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar released the **Reference Annual Bharat 2020 & India 2020** in New Delhi.
- The **Indian Railways** has launched the Hindi Version of **Artificial Intelligence-based chatbot** called "**ASKDISHA**". The hindi version has been launched to further enhance the customer services rendered and to further strengthen the services of the chatbot.
- The first anniversary of the iconic **National War Memorial** is being observed on **25th February**. The memorial is a fitting tribute to those heroes who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty during various wars and internal security challenges since Independence.
- The **Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC)** between India and Australia was held in **New Delhi**. This was the **16th edition** of the session.

- Union Minister of **Food Processing Industries** Harsimrat Kaur Badal has launched the- **Market Intelligence and Early Warning System (MIEWS)** Web Portal. The portal can be accessed at <http://miews.nafed-india.com>.
- A Programme for **Capacity Building of Scheduled Tribe Representatives in Local Self Governments** has been launched in Bhubhaneswar, Odisha. The programme was launched by the Union Tribal Affairs Minister Shri Arjun Munda.
- The **91st Annual General Meeting of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** Society was held in Delhi. The Annual General Meeting was chaired by the Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar.
- The **24th Meeting of the Eastern Zonal Council** will be held in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**. The Meeting of the **Eastern Zonal Council** will be chaired by the Union Minister for Home Affairs, Shri Amit Shah.
- The **National Association of Software and Services Companies (Nasscom)**, in collaboration with **Niti Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)**, launched an **artificial intelligence (AI) based module for students of Indian schools**.
- **Ministry of Corporate Affairs** has been launched **'SPICe+ Web Form** (pronounced 'SPICe Plus') to offer 10 services by 3 Central Government Ministries/ Departments and of State Government of Maharashtra in a single web form.
- The **Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI)** has approved **Rs 162 crore** under **Operation Green scheme** which has an outlay of Rs 500 crore to stabilize the supply of tomato, onion and potato (TOP) crops and to ensure their availability round the year without price volatility.
- **Maldives** has returned to **Commonwealth** after its exit in 2016 and hence, has become the **54th member** of the global body.
- Prime Minister of **Pakistan** Imran Khan has declared a **national emergency** in the country to battle **locust swarms**.
- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has approved the funding of **USD 2 million** to combat the spread of novel coronavirus (nCoV). The funds will also help in boosting the supply of diagnostic and laboratory equipment for rapid testing to help in fight against the outbreak.
- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has officially named the disease caused by the new coronavirus as **"Covid-2019"**. The new name **"Covid-2019"** has been taken from the words **"corona", "virus" and "disease"**, with 2019 representing the year in which it emerged. The virus was also designated as SARS-CoV-2 by the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses.
- The **Mobile World Congress**, the annual telecoms industry gathering that draws more than one lakh visitors to Barcelona, was cancelled over **coronavirus fears**.
- The **UK-based OneWeb company** has sent 34 satellites into orbit on a single **Soyuz rocket, from Baikonur port, Kazakhstan**.
- **Rishi Sunak** has been appointed as the **Finance Minister of the United Kingdom**. He will replace Pakistani Chancellor Sajid Javid
- **Bangladesh** has observed the **"Shaheed Dibash"** which is also known as **'Amar Ekushey'** to commemorate and to pay tribute to the martyrs of language movement.
- Prime Minister of **Ireland Leo Varadkar** has **resigned**.
- The **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** has decided to keep **Pakistan** on the **FATF Grey List** till June 2020.
- **Pakistan** has successfully completed the flight test of the air-launched cruise missile **Ra'ad-II**.
- Amazon CEO **Jeff Bezos** has announced the launch of **"Bezos Earth Fund"** to combat Climate Change with a contribution of **\$10 billion**.
- The government of **Nepal** has observed the **70th National Democracy Day on 19th February**.
- **Ashraf Ghani** has won the **Presidential elections of Afghanistan** and will become the President of Afghanistan for the **2nd time**.
- **Bangladesh** and **Nepal** have agreed to sign a **Free Trade Agreement** to enhance trade between the two countries.
- External Affairs Minister **Dr S Jaishankar** will inaugurate **Indian Pavilion at 70th Berlin International Film Festival** in Germany.
- Indian-origin **Alok Sharma** has been named the new **UK Minister** in charge of the crunch **UN climate talks** to be hosted by **Britain**.
- **South Sudan** rebel leader **Riek Machar** has been sworn in as first vice president. He is formally rejoining the government in the latest effort to bring peace to a nation ravaged by war.

International Current Affairs

- **Katy Perry** has become the ambassador of the **British Asian Trust's Children's Protection Fund for India**, recently unveiled by Britain's Prince Charles.
- **Romania's pro-European government** led by Prime Minister Ludovic Orban has **collapsed** in a **parliamentary no-confidence vote** after only 3 months in office.
- The United States President **Donald Trump** has been **acquitted** of all **impeachment** charges.
- **Sri Lanka** celebrated its **72nd Independence Day** on 4th February 2020. The major change in the celebration ceremony was the National Anthem of Sri Lanka as it was sung only in Sinhala and not in Tamil language.
- **Mohammed Tawfiq Allawi** was appointed as **Iraq's new Prime Minister** by President Barhim Salih. Former PM Adil Abdul-Mahdi resigned in November 2019 due to anti-government protests.

- **Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad** has announced his resignation over political issues. He will act as an interim PM.
- **Sri Lankan Government** formally notified the United Nations that it will withdraw from the **UNHRC (United Nations Human Rights Council)** resolution for investigating alleged war crimes. The case was dealing with a decade-old clash with Tamil separatists.

Defence Current Affairs

- Indian Army Major **Anoop Mishra** has developed first **bulletproof helmet** of the world under the Indian Army's project "**Abhedya**". The helmet can stop an AK-47 bullet round fired from a distance of 10 meters.
- Union government has set a **defense export target** of **5 billion dollars** in the upcoming five years (approx 35,000 crore rupees).
- **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited** has signed a partnership pact with **Israel Aerospace Industries** to manufacture advanced Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicles (**UCAVs**) in India.
- **India** hosted the Ministerial-level **Defence dialogue** between India and **South Korea** in **New Delhi** to deepen bilateral defence cooperation between the two countries.
- The **Indian Navy** conducts a coastal security exercise named '**Malta Abhiyan**' in **Kolkata**, West Bengal.
- The **11th edition** of the mega defence exhibition, **DefExpo 2020** begins at **Lucknow** in **Uttar Pradesh**. The **theme** of DefExpo India-2020 is "**India: the emerging defence manufacturing hub**".
- **India and the United Kingdom** will conduct their **5th edition of joint military exercise 'Ajeya Warrior-2020'** at **Salisbury Plains**, the **United Kingdom** from **February 13-26**.
- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has started developing a 200-km strike range tactical ballistic **missile 'Pranash'**.
- **Seminar on Indian Defence Equipment** was organized in **Dhaka** by the **High Commission of India in Bangladesh** to pursue further cooperation between India and Bangladesh in the field of defence technologies.
- The Chief of the Defence staff (CDS) General **Bipin Rawat** has announced the plan of establishing the **first Integrated Tri-Services Command** which will be responsible for **handling the air defence of the entire country**.
- The 5th edition of the Exercise **Indra Dhanush 2020** commenced on **24th February**. It is a joint air force exercise between Indian Air Force (IAF) and British Royal Air Forces (RAF) has commenced at Air Force Station **Hindan** in **Uttar Pradesh (UP)**.
- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** inaugurated the new **Light Combat Helicopter (LCH)** Production Hangar at Helicopter Division in **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** Complex at **Bengaluru, Karnataka**.

- The **6th Coast Guard Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) "VAJRA"** has been launched in **Chennai**. The Coast Guard's Offshore Patrol Vessel is expected to strengthen the efforts Indian Coast Guard in securing the vast coastline of over 7500 km, including an exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of over **20 lakh sq kms**.

Ranks and Reports

- **Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP)** of the **Lauder Institute** at the **University of Pennsylvania** has released the **2019 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report**. **India's Observer Research Foundation (ORF)** has been ranked at **27th** position among 176 global think tanks (U.S. and non-U.S.).
- **Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB)** has **ranked 3rd in MOOC Lab's Business School Rankings 2020** for its provision, design and delivery of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs). **IIM Bangalore succeeds HEC Paris (France) and Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania (USA)**.
- According to the **22nd edition** of the **world language database Ethnologue**, **English, Chinese and Hindi** secured the **top three** positions as most spoken language of the world in 2019.

Agreement/Memorandum Of Understanding (MoU)

- **Indian Oil Corporation** and **Russian Rosneft** has signed a term contract for importing 2 Million Metric Tonnes of **Urals grade crude oil** to India for the year 2020.
- **Indian Oil** has picked up a minority equity stake in **Israel's** battery developer **Phinergy** to jointly set up a facility in India to manufacture **metal-air batteries** for electric vehicles.
- **Eastern Railways** has partnered with **Amazon India** to set up a pick-up kiosk at the **Sealdah railway station** in **Kolkata, West Bengal**.

- **HDFC Bank, Mastercard and SAP Concur** have joined hands for spending management services for the corporate sector.
- The **Gujarat government** has signed an MoU with **State Bank of India** to facilitate approval of loans to entrepreneurs in the **MSME sector** with ease and within a short time-frame.
- The **Government of India** has signed **USD 450 million loan** agreement with the **World Bank** to support the national programme “Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABHY): National Groundwater Management Improvement Programme”.
- **Microsoft** announced a partnership with **State Bank of India** to train differently-abled people to find jobs in the banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI) sector.
- **Chinese tech major Xiaomi** will bring **ISRO’s Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System, NavIC** technology to its smartphones.
- The **NTPC Ltd** has signed an agreement with the **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)**. According to an agreement, NTPC Ltd will provide financial support of Rs 80 Crore for installation and commissioning of Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS).
- **HDFC Bank** joined hands with the country’s largest airline **IndiGo** to launch a co-branded credit card, which will effectively work like a loyalty programme for the carrier. Its first travel credit card named ‘**Ka-ching**’-powered by **Mastercard**.
- President Ram Nath Kovind presented ‘**President’s Colour**’ to the **INS Shivaji** at a ceremony in Lonavala, Maharashtra.
- **South Indian Bank** has bagged two awards at the **Banking Technology 2019** awards instituted by the Indian Banks’ Association. This event was held in Indian Bank Association’s 15th Annual Banking Technology Conference, Expo and Awards held in Mumbai, Maharashtra. The South Indian Bank emerged the winner in the ‘**Most Customer-Centric Bank Using Technology**’ category and runner up in the ‘**Best Payments Initiative**’ category amongst small Banks’.
- The **International Hockey Federation (FIH)** has awarded Indian men’s hockey team captain & midfielder Manpreet Singh with “**Player of the Year for 2019**” award. India’s another midfielder **Vivek Sagar Prasad** has also won the “**FIH Male Rising Star of the Year**” award.
- **BioAsia 2020** has announced the **Genome Valley Excellence Award**. American immunologist and oncologist **Dr. Carl H June** and **Novartis CEO Dr. Vasant Narsimhan** will be presented this award for their contributions to life sciences.
- Indian feminist scholar, activist **Gita Sen** has won the **prestigious Dan David Prize 2020** under “present” category.
- **Dr Niti Kumar**, a Senior Scientist from Division of Molecular Parasitology and Immunology, CSIR-CDRI, Lucknow will be honoured with the **SERB Women Excellence Award-2020**.
- Veteran actor **Manoj Kumar** has been honoured by the **World Book of Records, London** with the WBR Golden Era of Bollywood.
- **Adline Castelino** has been crowned as the winner of **LIVA Miss Diva Universe 2020** competition. **Aavriti Choudhary** of Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh crowned as LIVA Miss Diva Supranational 2020.
- **Sreekar Prasad**, a veteran editor has entered the Limca Book of Records for ‘**films edited in the most number of languages**’. **Sreekar Prasad** has received the certification from the Limca Records for editing films in 17 languages. The 17 languages includes: English, Hindi, Punjabi, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Tamil, Odia, Sinhalese, Bengali, Assamese, Nepali, Pangchenpa, Karbi, Mishing, Bodo, and Marathi.
- The **Raja Ravi Varma** State Award was conferred on veteran painter from Kalaburagi, Prof. **J.S. Khanderao** (for the year 2019) and senior artist from Mumbai, **Vasudev Kamath (2020)**. Prof. J.S. Khanderao was awarded for his art that defines the history of human culture as the art is a form of human expression. The painting dates back to the ages of primitive times. The art form has undergone rapid transformations over centuries. Vasudev Kamath was awarded for his more expressive form of art.

Awards & Recognition

- The President of India has presented the **International Gandhi Awards for Leprosy** for the year 2019 to **Dr N.S. Dharmashaktu** in New Delhi.
- **Vinod Kumar Shukla** has won the inaugural **Mathrubhumi Book of the Year** award for his translated book “**Blue Is Like Blue**”.
- The Veteran actor **Waheeda Rehman** will be honoured the **Madhya Pradesh** government’s **National Kishore Kumar Samman**.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** governor **Shaktikanta Das** has been named the ‘**Central Banker of the Year 2020**’ for the Asia-Pacific region by financial intelligence magazine **The Banker**.
- **Madhya Pradesh** Minister for Women and Child Development **Imarti Devi** and Principal Secretary **Anupam Rajan** have been **awarded** for the implementation of **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana** in the state of Madhya Pradesh.
- The Chief National coach for the Indian Badminton team **Pullela Gopichand** honour with Coaches lifetime achievement award by **International Olympic Committee’s (IOC)**.

- Forest Man of India **Jadav Payeng** will be awarded **Swami Vivekananda Karmayogi Award 2020** in New Delhi.

Science and Technology

- **NASA's** astronaut **Christina Koch** has returned to Earth after her record stay of **328 days** in space and surpassed Peggy Whitson's record for an American woman on a single spaceflight at 289 days.
- The scientists from Rochester Institute of Technology has discovered the nearest-known '**baby giant planet**' which is named as "**2MASS 1155-7919 b**". The newly discovered baby giant planet which is named as "**2MASS 1155-7919 b**" lies about 330 light-years from our solar system.
- The **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** has launched the '**5G Hackathon**' in association with the government of India, academia and industry stakeholders to shortlist India's focused cutting edge ideas that can be converted into workable 5G products and solutions.
- The **Indian Space Research Organisation** has revealed in its annual report for 2019-20 that it will launch **10 Earth Observation Satellites** in 2020-21.

Books & Authors

- "**The Thin Mind Map Book**" authored by a mind mapping & brain literacy pioneer **Dharmendra Rai**, was launched recently.
- The Vice President of India **Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu** released a book titled '**A Child of Destiny**' an autobiography penned by Prof. **K. Ramakrishna Rao**.
- The Vice President of India **M Venkaiah Naidu** released the book titled '**Death- An Inside Story: A book for all those who shall**' authored by **Jaggi Vasudev**, but famously known as **Sadhguru, Founder of Isha Foundation**.

Miscellaneous Current Affairs

- Geneva-based **World Health Organization** has called for **675 million US dollars** in donations for a plan to fight the novel coronavirus.
- The **Indian Olympic Association** has invited BCCI President **Sourav Ganguly** to become the **Goodwill Ambassador** of the Indian contingent at the Tokyo Olympics.
- The government of India unveiled a new indigenously developed vaccine for controlling **classical swine fever (CSF)** which is a highly contagious **fatal pig disease**. The new vaccine is developed by Uttar Pradesh based Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)-Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI).
- **Mo O'Brien** has become the **first deaf person** on record to **row an ocean** by finishing a **3,000-mile journey**

across the Atlantic ocean with her daughter Bird Watts, and their friend Claire Allinson.

- Bangladesh's Prime Minister **Sheikh Hasina** has inaugurated the **Ekushey Book fair** organised at Bangla Academy premises in Dhaka. The book fair is annually celebrated to commemorate the martyrs of the Bangladesh's language movement which helped in establishing Bangla as the official language of the then East Pakistan.
- The **International team of astronomers** led by scientists at the **University of California, United States(US)** have discovered an Ultramassive monster galaxy dubbed as **XMM-2599**.
- The **Northern Coalfields Ltd (NCL)** has established a research and development centre, named '**Science and Applied Research Alliance and Support (SARAS)**'.
- Union Information and Broadcasting Minister **Prakash Javadekar** released the first look of a biopic on former **President APJ Abdul Kalam in New Delhi**.
- **National Institute of Financial Management (NIFM)**, Faridabad will be renamed as Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management (AJNIFM).
- India to include the **Asian Elephant and the Great Indian Bustard** in the list of species that merit heightened conservation measures.
- The **Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED)** has organized the workshop on "Van Dhan and Entrepreneurship Development" under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in New Delhi.
- The first '**Jerusalem-Mumbai Festival**' will be held in the **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.
- The Government of India has renamed two institutions after **Sushma Swaraj** in an honour of the late External Affairs Minister. The two institutions are: the **Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra and the Foreign Service Institute**.
- The **Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)**, under the Ministry of Civil Aviation of India, has issued a circular that **Electronic-Cigarettes** and all forms of **Electronic Nicotine Delivery System(ENDS)** **will not be allowed in both domestic and international flights as well as at airports**.
- The **Ghaziabad police** launched '**Operation Nakail**' under which the identity of all auto-rickshaw drivers will be verified and a unique four-digit number will be allotted to them.
- The '**Historical Gastronomica - The Indus Dining Experience**' exhibition was held at the National Museum in **New Delhi**.
- The **Chitra Bharati Film Festival** will be held at Gujarat University in Ahmedabad, **Gujarat** and will be organised by Bharatiya Chitra Sadhana.
- National Institution for Transforming India (**NITI Aayog**) has organized a meeting on **Active Pharmaceuticals Ingredients (API) Industry** under the chairmanship of NITI Aayog's CEO **Amitabh Kant**.

- The services of **Kashi Mahakal Express**, the 3rd private train of Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC), has commenced between **Varanasi and Indore**.
- Union Minister of State for Shipping Mansukh Laxmanbhai Mandaviya laid the foundation stone for a 50-metre high **modern lighthouse** at Dhanushkodi in Rameswaram, **Tamil Nadu**.
- The **Delhi Police** has integrated its "**Himmat Plus App**" with the app of ride hailing company "**Uber**" to ensure safety and security of people travelling in cabs.
- The Union government has decided to rename 'The Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses' (IDSA) as '**Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses**'.
- **Radhakishan Damani**, founder of Avenue Supermarts (known as D-Mart) has now become the **2nd richest Indian** after Reliance Industries Ltd chairman Mukesh Ambani, with a net worth of **\$17.8 billion**.
- On the occasion of 1st anniversary of the launch of **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme**, Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched PM KISAN mobile application for the further expansion of the scheme.
- **India's first floating jetty** has been inaugurated by the Union Minister of State for Shipping Mansukh Mandaviya at a cruise terminal in **Vasco at Goa**.
- **J&K Advisor** to Lieutenant Governor, **Farooq Khan** has flagged off a youth exchange programme '**Watan Ko Jano**'.
- **Jiya Rai**, the 11-year-old girl created a world record by becoming the youngest and the fastest specially-abled girl to swim 14 kilometres in open water in 3 hours 27 minutes and 30 seconds.
- The **Central Board of Secondary Education** has launched an Exam center locator app "**CBSE ECL**" as well as an Online Exam Center Management System "**OEOMS**".
- Britain's oldest man, **Bob Weighton**, who is 111, has now become the oldest person in the world.
- **The Mumbai International Airport Ltd (MIAL)** has announced the launch of the world's largest airport-based temperature-controlled facility known as the '**Export Cold Zone**' for processing and storage of agro and pharma products.
- American Author **Roger Kahn** passed away. His best-selling book in 1972 "The Boys of Summer".
- Hindi novelist and Padma Shri awardee **Giriraj Kishore** passed away. He was best known for his novel "Pehla Giritiya" that was based on Mahatma Gandhi's stay in South Africa.
- Noted cricket journalist and film historian **Raju Bharatan** passed away.
- Veteran journalist **Nandu R Kulkarni** passed away recently. He was serving as the Mumbai bureau chief of "The Statesman" since 1992.
- Famous Indian fashion designer **Wendell Rodricks** passed away.
- Former Chairman and Director General of The Energy Resources Institute (TERI) **Rajindra Kumar Pachauri** passed away. Pachauri received the Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of the IPCC, with the former United States (US) Vice President, Al Gore, for the year 2007. He also received Padma Vibhushan in 2008 & Padma Bhushan in 2001 from the Government of India.
- Former president of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) **V L Dutt** passed away.
- **Larry Tesler**, the computer scientist who introduced the cut, copy and paste commands passed away.
- The former Manchester United goalkeeper **Harry Gregg** passed away.
- Legendary women's golfer **Mickey Wright** passed away.
- Veteran Bengali actor and former Trinamool Congress MP **Tapas Pal** passed away.
- Former Indian footballer **Ashok Chatterjee** passed away. He made his international debut when he came on as a second-half substitute for PK Banerjee against Japan in the Merdeka Cup in 1965.
- Former Lok Sabha **MP Krishna Bose** passed away. She joined politics in the mid-1990s. She was close to Trinamool Congress chairperson and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.
- Egypt's former President **Mohammed Hosni Mubarak** passed away. He ruled the country for 30 years.

Obituaries

- Former Assam Legislative Assembly Speaker and sitting Congress MLA **Pranab Kumar Gogoi** passed away.
- Renowned Odia revolutionary poet and freedom fighter **Rabi Singh** passed away. He was popularly known as '**Biplabi Kabi**'.
- Eminent Punjabi writer and Sahitya Akademi Awardee **Jaswant Singh Kanwal** passed away.
- The Academy Award winning Hollywood Actor, producer and director **Kirk Douglas** passed away.

- Famous NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) mathematician **Katherine Johnson** passed away at the age of 101. Johnson's calculations helped put the first man on the Moon in 1969, but she was little known until the Oscar-nominated 2016 movie that told the stories of three black women who worked at NASA.
- Centenarian freedom fighter and Vedic scholar **Sudhakar Krishna Rao**, widely known as Sudhakar Chaturvedi passed away.
- The world's oldest man, **Chitetsu Watanabe** of Japan, has passed away at 112.

Static Takeaways

- Chief Minister of Telangana: K. Chandrashekar Rao; Governor: Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan; Capital: Hyderabad.
- Chief Minister of Rajasthan: Ashok Gehlot; Governor: Kalraj Mishra; Capital: Jaipur.
- Chief Justice of India: Sharad Arvind Bobde; Founded: 28th January 1950.
- Capital of Pakistan: Islamabad; President of Pakistan: Arif Alvi.
- Capital of Iraq: Baghdad; Currency of Iraq: Iraqi dinar.
- Currency of Sri Lanka: Sri Lankan rupee; Prime minister: Mahinda Rajapaksa; President: Gotabaya Rajapaksa.
- Capital of the United States: Washington, D.C.
- President of Romania: Klaus Iohannis; Currency: Romanian leu; Capital: Bucharest.
- British Asian Trust founded: 2007; Founder: Prince Charles.
- The Banking Regulation Act, 1949 is legislation in India that regulates all banking firms.
- Shaktikanta Das is the 25th governor of the Reserve Bank of India.
- Chairman of Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation: B.P.Kanungo.
- Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs Founded: 1 January 1964.
- Union Minister of External Affairs: Subrahmanyam Jaishankar.
- BCCI President: Sourav Ganguly; Headquarter of BCCI: Mumbai.
- Headquarters of Paralympic Committee of India: Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Headquarter of Coal India: Kolkata, West Bengal.
- LinkedIn Corp: Headquarters: Sunnyvale, California, United States.
- JSW steel Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Defence Minister of India: Rajnath Singh.
- Navy Day in India is celebrated on 4th December.
- General Bipin Rawat is the current Chief of Defence Staff of India.
- 28th Chief of Army Staff: General Manoj Mukund Naravane.

- Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh: Kamal Nath.
- Headquarters of RBI: Mumbai; Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata.
- Chairman of Marine Products Export Development Authority: K.S. Srinivas.
- Chairman of Indian Oil Corporation (IOC): Sanjiv Singh.
- President of Indian Olympic Association: Narinder Dhruv Batra.
- Union Minister of the Ministry of Coal: Pralhad Joshi.
- Union Minister of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare: Harsh Vardhan.
- Asian Development Bank Headquarters: Manila, Philippines; President: Masatsugu Asakawa.
- WHO Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland; Director general: Tedros Adhanom.
- GSMA chief executive: John Hoffman.
- Headquarters of GSMA: London, UK.
- OneWeb company CEO: Adrian Steckel.
- OneWeb company Headquarters: London, England.
- Uttarakhand Chief Minister: Trivendra Singh Rawat; Governor: Baby Rani Maurya.
- Capital of Tripura: Agartala; CM of Tripura: Biplab Kumar Deb; Governor of Tripura: Ramesh Bais.
- Anandiben Patel is the present Governor of Uttar Pradesh.
- Governor of Haryana: Satyadeo Narayan Arya.
- Chief Minister (CM) of Haryana: Manohar Lal Khattar.
- Chief Minister of Maharashtra: Uddhav Bal Thackeray; Governor of Maharashtra: Bhagat Singh Koshyari; Capital of Maharashtra: Mumbai.
- Deputy Chief Minister (DCM) of Maharashtra: Ajit Anantrao Pawar.
- Union Minister of Finance and Minister of Corporate Affairs: Nirmala Sitharaman.
- Capital of the USA: Washington, D.C.; President of USA: Donald Trump.
- DRDO Chairman: G Satheesh Reddy; Established: 1958; Headquarters: New Delhi.
- 28th Chief of Army Staff: General Manoj Mukund Naravane.
- International Olympic Committee Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland.
- International Olympic Committee President: Thomas Bach.
- International Olympic Committee Director General(DG): Christophe De Kepper.
- International Olympic Committee Founded: 1894 in Paris, France.
- Prime Minister of Bangladesh: Sheikh Hasina; Capital: Dhaka; Currency: Taka.
- Federation of Small Scale Industries President: Dhankesh Patel.
- Federation of Small Scale Industries Headquarters: Vadodara, Gujarat.
- Chief Minister of Kerala: Pinarayi Vijayan
- Governor of Kerala: Arif Mohammed Khan.
- Capital of Kerala: Thiruvananthapuram.

- Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh: Kamal Nath.
- Governor of Madhya Pradesh: Lal Ji Tandon.
- Minister of State (IC) of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports: Kiren Rijju.
- Chairman of ICC: Shashank Manohar; Chief Executive: Manu Sahney; Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
- Chairman of National Productivity Council: Guruprasad Mohapatra.
- Director-General of National Productivity Council: Arun Kumar Jha.
- Secretary General of United Nations: Antonio Guterres.
- Chairman and Managing Director of the NCL: PK Sinha.
- Headquarters of United Nations Environment Programme: Nairobi, Kenya.
- Director of United Nations Environment Programme: Inger Andersen.
- Israel Capital: Jerusalem, Currency: Israeli new shekel.
- President of Israel: Reuven Rivlin.
- Governor of Haryana: Satyadeo Narayan Arya.
- Chief Minister (CM) of Haryana: Manohar Lal Khattar.
- South Indian Bank MD & CEO: V.G. Mathew.
- South Indian Bank headquarters: Thrissur, Kerala.
- South Indian Bank founded: 1929.
- South Indian Bank Tagline: Experience Next Generation Banking.
- Chief executive Officer of International Hockey Federation (FIH): Thierry Weil.
- President of Hockey India: Mohd Mushtaque Ahmad
- Union Minister for Home Affairs: Amit Shah.
- Bureau of Civil Aviation Security headquarters: New Delhi.
- Bureau of Civil Aviation Security founded: 1976.
- Managing Director & CEO of IndusInd Bank: Romesh Sobti
- Headquarter of IndusInd Bank: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- The tagline of IndusInd Bank: We Make You Feel Richer.
- President of UAE: Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan.
- Capital of UAE: Abu Dhabi; Currency of UAE: UAE dirham.
- Union Minister for Food Processing Industries: Harsimrat Kaur Badal.
- Capital of the United Kingdom: London.
- The currency of the United Kingdom: UK Pound.
- Chief Minister of West Bengal: Mamata Banerjee; Governor: Jagdeep Dhankhar.
- Headquarters of Institute of Chartered Accountants (ICAI): New Delhi.
- Capital of Tamil Nadu: Chennai.
- Governor of Tamil Nadu: Banwarilal Purohit.
- Governor of Uttar Pradesh: Anandiben Patel.
- Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh: Yogi Adityanath.
- Capital of Uttar Pradesh: Lucknow.
- Chief Minister (CM): Kalvakuntla Chandrashekar Rao.
- Governor of Telangana: Dr. Tamilsai Soundararajan.
- Capital of Telangana: Hyderabad.
- Chairman and MD of General Insurance Corporation of India: Devesh Srivastava.
- Headquarters of General Insurance Corporation of India: Mumbai.
- Vladimir Putin is President of Russia.
- Moscow is the capital city of Russia.
- The Russian ruble is the currency Russia